

# APPENDIX B

## EQAC RESOLUTIONS AND POSITIONS NOVEMBER 2014 THROUGH OCTOBER 2015

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November 12, 2014	Support for grant funding through the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (memorandum dated November 13, 2014)	B-2
January 21, 2015	EQAC position on the county's fall cankerworm spray program (memorandum dated January 22, 2015)	B-3
February 11, 2015	EQAC comments on the MITRE building energy technology report (memorandum dated February 16, 2015)	B-5
March 11, 2015	Clarification on the January 21 position on the county's fall cankerworm spray program (memorandum dated March 18, 2015)	B-6
April 8, 2015	Testimony in support of the proposed budget for the environment (memorandum dated April 9, 2015)	B-8
September 9, 2015	EQAC support for the Board of Supervisors legislative position on reducing environmental contamination from plastic and paper bags	B-9



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 13, 2014

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Stella Koch, Chairman *Stella M. Koch*  
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

SUBJECT: Support for grant funding through the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund

In order to reduce non-point source pollution from stormwater runoff, the Virginia General Assembly included Item 360 in Chapter 860 of the Acts of Assembly (the Commonwealth's 2013 - 2014 Budget) which created and set forth specific parameters for the administration of the [Stormwater Local Assistance Fund \(SLAF\)](#).

There is presently funding available for these grants. Last year, Fairfax County received \$2.2 million from this fund and this year has applied for an even larger grant. However, funding for SLAF is not presently scheduled for FY16.

Roughly a dozen local governments have already sent letters to Governor McAuliffe asking that this funding be included in his next biennial budget. We are asking that Fairfax County also submit a letter requesting continued funding for the SLAF.

Thank you for your consideration of this request

cc: Edward L. Long, Jr., County Executive  
David J. Molchany, Deputy County Executive  
Robert A. Stalzer, Deputy County Executive  
James Patteson, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services  
Randy Bartlett, Deputy Director, DPWES, Stormwater and Wastewater Programs  
EQAC file, November 2014

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# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 22, 2015

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Stella Koch, Chairman *Stella M. Koch*  
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

SUBJECT: EQAC position on the county's fall cankerworm spray program

The Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) has reviewed the County's fall cankerworm spray program. Several organizations have questioned whether cankerworm spraying is needed, largely because the fall cankerworm is native to this area and because it serves as a food source for birds. In order to review the spray program, EQAC invited presentations from representatives of a coalition of organizations opposing the spraying program and from County staff at the December EQAC meeting. EQAC concluded that the County cankerworm spraying program is important to avoid the loss of trees in Fairfax County and that the program follows accepted practices for minimizing the use of pesticides to control the cankerworm threat.

The County's Urban Forest Management Division places its priority on the health of the trees and health of the urban forest ecosystem. Urban Forest Management staff explained and provided references to support the widely held conclusion among forestry professionals that, while a single defoliation event by cankerworms is not expected to be fatal for a tree, a defoliation event makes a tree more susceptible to subsequent insect attacks and alters the quality of the leaves produced. With multiple defoliations, tree mortality will become much more common. While studies have not been conducted to specifically examine tree mortality associated with cankerworms in Fairfax County, the impact of cankerworms in other nearby Virginia areas, such as in the Richmond area and in the Bull Run Mountain area, is clear.

Both County staff and representatives of the coalition of organizations agreed that urban trees are more susceptible to being overstressed by cankerworms because trees in the urban forest face stresses that are worse than the stresses found in the natural environment. Examples of these stresses include the loss of native understory vegetation, compaction of ground near and around trees, and drought.

In order to address the threat of cankerworms to the Fairfax County urban forest, the County employs Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, which rely on monitoring insect pest

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populations, determining the most appropriate course of action based on this monitoring and then taking that action. Trees are targeted for monitoring based on aerial surveys that identify areas that appear to be damaged by cankerworms. County staff only sprays when female cankerworm counts exceed 90 per tree (the cankerworms are trapped on a sticky band around a tree). The County has only aeriually sprayed four times since 2000 and those spray events covered less than one percent of the County.

In the absence of this spraying program, County staff and the State forester assigned to Fairfax County assert that they not only fear the loss of valued trees, such as oaks, but they also expect impacts on the birds, insects and other wildlife that depend on trees for habit. Moreover, this spraying program has not been shown to, and is not expected to, adversely affect any bird or insect population, including the overall population of cankerworms. The spraying program simply keeps the cankerworm populations from exploding in the urban forest where trees are already stressed from the urban environment.

EQAC appreciates the real concerns raised by individuals and organizations and hopes that the County will continue to pursue alternatives to spraying.

EQAC concludes that the limited and targeted spraying program is a prudent action to protect trees within Fairfax County.

cc: Edward L. Long, Jr., County Executive  
David J. Molchany, Deputy County Executive  
James W. Patteson, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services  
Keith Cline, Director, Urban Forest Management Division, DPWES  
Troy Shaw, Chief, Forest Pest Management Branch, DPWES  
EQAC file, January 2015



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 16, 2015

TO: Planning Commission Environment Committee

FROM: Stella Koch, Chairman *Stella M. Koch*  
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

SUBJECT: MITRE Building Energy Technology Report

The Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) has reviewed the report from the MITRE Corporation entitled "Building Energy Technology Recommendations to Fairfax County" and the related county staff perspectives on this report.

We think that the MITRE report provides some insights in developing an energy policy for the county. The staff comments add an important perspective on the practicality of these recommendations. Technological advances are continually evolving, and flexibility is an important factor in the development of county policy. We also note the MITRE report deals primarily with dense high-rise development planned for Tysons Corner, so some of the statements regarding renewable energy may not be applicable to other areas of Fairfax County.

EQAC is supportive of reporting, renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts and we would like to review and contribute to follow up steps.

We thank you for consideration of these comments.

cc: Board of Supervisors  
Edward L. Long, Jr., County Executive  
David J. Molchany, Deputy County Executive  
EQAC file, February 2015

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# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 18, 2015

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Stella Koch, Chairman *Stella M. Koch*  
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

SUBJECT: Follow-up to January 22, 2015 memorandum on the county's fall cankerworm spray program

EQAC is writing this memorandum because a representative of the coalition of organizations opposing the fall cankerworm spraying program has expressed concern to us that our January 22, 2015 memorandum to you regarding the fall cankerworm spray program has presented the coalition's position inaccurately. We are writing to clarify the coalition's position. This matter was discussed at EQAC's meeting on March 11, 2015, and, by a unanimous vote of members present at that meeting, EQAC approved this follow-up transmittal to you.

Specifically, in an e-mail dated February 17, 2015, Katherine Wychulis took issue with the following language in our January 22 memorandum: *"Both County staff and representatives of the coalition of organizations agreed that urban trees are more susceptible to being overstressed by cankerworms because trees in the urban forest face stresses that are worse than the stresses found in the natural environment."* She stated that this is not an accurate representation of the position taken by the coalition.

The EQAC memorandum built upon statements made by county staff and coalition representatives at EQAC's December 10, 2014 meeting. Because of the concern raised by Ms. Wychulis, we reviewed the recording of the discussion in order to determine if we had inaccurately represented statements from coalition members. County staff was clear in its presentation that urban trees face more stress than trees in other areas; there are several reasons for this increased stress, including a relative lack of diversity of native plants in the understory (there is often competition from non-native species), soil compaction and availability of water. The presentation from representatives of the coalition referenced a study from North Carolina State University that indicated that there are higher populations of fall cankerworm in urban areas as compared to more natural areas; it was suggested that the relative lack of diversity of native plants in urban areas may explain this difference. Also both county staff and coalition representatives noted that providing chickadee nesting boxes could be used to help control cankerworm populations and that this could be explored as a control strategy. However, while statements made by the coalition members agree with observations of county staff that led

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county staff to conclude that urban trees face stresses that make them more susceptible to the fall cankerworm, the coalition members did not draw such a conclusion, and therefore Ms. Wychulis's concern about how we represented the coalition's position is understood. We appreciate the coalition's clarification.

Despite this misunderstanding, EQAC has not changed its conclusion.

We apologize for any confusion about the coalition's positions that was caused by our January 22, 2015 memorandum.

cc: Edward L. Long, Jr., County Executive  
David J. Molchany, Deputy County Executive  
James W. Patteson, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services  
Keith Cline, Director, Urban Forest Management Division, DPWES  
Troy Shaw, Chief, Forest Pest Management Branch, DPWES  
Katherine Wychulis, Esq.  
Ashley Kennedy  
EQAC file, January 2015



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 9, 2015

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Stella Koch, Chairman *Stella M. Koch*  
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of Proposed Budget for the Environment

EQAC is pleased to thank the Board for its continued support of the county's environmental initiatives.

We encourage the Board to adopt the environmental funding levels included in the FY 2016 Advertised Budget Plan. We especially note the ongoing support for the Stormwater Program with the increase of the ¼ penny in the Stormwater Service District rate and the funding of the environmental initiatives identified beginning on page 100 of Volume 2 of the Advertised Budget Plan.

Again, thank you for your continued support. Please do adopt the budget as advertised.

SMK

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**EQAC Support for Board of Supervisors Legislative Position  
on Reducing Environmental Contamination from Plastic and Paper Bags  
September 9, 2015**

The Board of Supervisors' adopted 2015 Fairfax County Legislative Program included the following position statement:

**Reducing Environmental Contamination from Plastic and Paper Bags**

Support legislation or other efforts which would encourage the use of reusable shopping bags, consistent with the County's waste reduction goals and environmental stewardship efforts. As in previous sessions, it is anticipated that legislation to ban plastic bags or impose a fee for their use may be introduced again in 2015. Such legislation would need to be examined by the County for efficacy, cost, and ease of administration.

*(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

At its September 9, 2015 meeting, EQAC, through a unanimous vote of members present, approved a motion to recommend that the Board of Supervisors retain this position in its next legislative program.